1: Roth--120 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 342, 313

"Cook and Anderson were both under the impression that the natives hollowed out, by means of fire, the lower part of tree trunks in order to make use of such openings for habitations (Third Voy. Bk. I. ch. vi. pp. 41-45). Mortimer (pp. 17-18) also mentions these burnt-out hollows. Rossel held similar views, and they were confirmed by the fact that these burnt-out hollows were always on the east side of the trees (I. ch. iii. pp. 51-53; ch. iv. pp. 55, 61-62). Marion (p. 34) 'saw no signs of any houses, only some break-winds, rudely formed of branches of trees, with traces of fires near them,' and according to Dixon (p. 22), it 'was only in the coldest weather that they thought of erecting a shelter. This was always of the rudest structure, being a few upright sticks, leaning together, and scantily covered with strips of bark; but as soon as the fine weather returned, the frail habitation was deserted.' "

"Fourneaux thus describes the huts (Cook's Sec. Voy. Bk. I. ch. vii.): 'The boughs of which their huts are made are either broken or split, and tied together with grass in a circular form, the largest end stuck in the ground, and the smaller parts meeting in a point at the top, and covered with fern and bark, so poorly done that they will hardly keep out a shower of rain. In the middle is the fireplace, surrounded with heaps of mussel, pear-scallop, and crayfish shells . . . I believe they have no settled habitations, as these houses seemed built only for a few days.' Bass's description is somewhat different; 'Their huts, of which seven or eight were frequently found together like a little encampment, were constructed of bark, torn in long strips from some neighbouring tree, after being divided transversely at the bottom, in such breadths as they judge their strength would be able to disengage from its adherence to the wood, and the connecting bark on each side. It is then broken into convenient lengths, and placed, sloping wise, against the elbowing part of some dead branch that has fallen off from the distorted limbs of the gum tree; and a little grass is sometimes thrown over the top part. But, after all their labour, they have not ingenuity sufficient to place the slips of bark in such a manner as to preclude the free admission of the rain' (Collins, p. 168)."

1; Roth--120-121 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
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"Against this we have La Billardière's testimony, which says (II. ch. x. p. 10): 'The ingenuity with which they have disposed the bark that covered its roof, excited our admiration; the heaviest rain could not penetrate [121] it. It can be supposed that the different tribes did not all build their huts or break-winds on exactly the same pattern.' Flinders mentions that Mr. Cox saw 'a hut, or rather hovel, neatly constructed of branches of trees and dried leaves' (Sec. IV. p. 91); and from Mortimer's remarks it is to be inferred he also met with huts constructed of leaves and branches, without bark (pp. 17-18). The spongy bark of the Eucalyptus resinifera, which peels off naturally, seems also to have been used for coverings for the huts (La Billardière, I. ch. v. p. 174), and the same author tells us that, in fixing up the framework, the branches were fixed into the ground by both ends (ibid. pp. 179-191)."

1: Roth--121 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 342

"The illustration we give (after Péron) shows the break-wind nature of these constructions, and Péron's own words well bear out the illustration. Describing one of these he says (ch. xii. p. 225): 'It was simply a wind shelter of bark, arranged in a semi-circle, and leaning against some dry branches. The sole object of such a frail refuge could only have been to protect the man from the action of the very cold winds. I observed that its convexity was opposed to the effect of the S. E. winds, which on these shores are the most constant, the most impetuous and the coldest.' Some huts that Calder met with (Journ. pp. 20-21) 'in the Western Mountains seemed to have been constructed in a great hurry, and were composed of a few strips of bark laid against some large dead branches that were used just as they had fallen from the trees above. Others that I have seen had evidently been occupied for several nights. These were also of bark, supported on sticks driven a little into the ground.... These huts were closed only on the weather side, and perfectly open in front, some large enough for several persons, others less.'"

1: Roth--121 [2] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 342

"'It was only on the west coast, between Port Davey and Macquarie Harbour, that huts were in use continuously, for periods of about six months together; these huts were conical, and thatched with grass, having an opening on one side, to answer the double purpose of door and chimney' (Milligan, Beacon, p. 25). Another description of these huts runs: 'Three pieces of timber are placed in an oblique position with their ends sunk a little into the ground, and meeting in a point at the top, where they are fastened by a cord of bark. Two of the three sides of this dwelling are then filled with wicker-work, like their canoes; and the whole is completely secured from the inclemency of the weather by a covering of long grass' (Jeffreys, pp. 128-129)."

116, 342

"'A curious account of one of their places of meeting is preserved in an official letter, written by Mr. W. B. Walker, dated December 24, 1827, from which the following is taken:-- "Some time since Mr. W. Field had occasion to search for a fresh run for some of his cattle, in the course of which he found a fine tract of land, to the west of George Town, in which is an extensive plain, and on one side of it his stockkeepers found a kind of spire, curiously ornamented with shells, grasswork, etc. The tree of which it is formed appeared to have had much labour and ingenuity bestowed upon it, being by means of fire brought to a sharp point at the top and pierced with holes, in which pieces of wood are placed in such a manner as to afford an easy ascent to near the top, where there is a commodious seat for a man. At the distance of fifteen or twenty yards round the tree are two circular ranges of good huts, composed of bark and grass; described as much in the form of an old-fashioned coal-scuttle turned wrong side up, the entrance about eighteen inches high, five feet or six feet high at the back, and eight feet or ten feet long. There are also numerous small places in form of birds'-nests, formed of grass, having constantly fourteen stones in each. The circular space between the spire and the huts has the appearance of being much frequented, being trod quite bare of grass, and seems to be used as a place of assembly and consultation. In the huts and the vicinity were found an immense number of waddies, but very few spears.... There are two

others, but of inferior construction, one about five miles from the Supply Mills, and the other west of Piper's Lagoon, north of the Western River. He [my informant] has frequently met small parties of natives on their way to and from the two last-named places"' (Calder, Journ. pp. 23-24)."

1: Roth--121-122 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 342, 361

"Speaking of the break-winds, West says (II. p. 82): [122] 'These huts formed rude villages, and were seen from seventeen to forty together. The former number being raised by a tribe of seventy, from four to five must have lodged under one shelter. Some, found at the westward, were permanent; they were like beehives, and thatched; several such were seen by Jorgenson, on the western shore--strong and apparently erected for long use.' "

1: Roth--188 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
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"It has been shown on pp. 121-122, that the natives constructed two sorts of huts or break-winds, those which on the ramblings of small parties were to last for a night only, and those more permanent ones to last a season;...."